



The Ruckstell Review

Published Monthly by the
MODEL T Ford CLUB
of San Diego



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Established 1983

May 2023

Tony Bowker's Celebration of Life

June 4, 2023 4-6 p.m.

See page 12 for details

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

May 10 General Meeting

May 28—June 4 Golden Gate Tour

Jun 17 Chula Vista Nature Center run

(See page 11)

July 12 General Meeting

July 15 Balboa Island Family Beach Day

Sept 13 General Meeting

Oct 7-8 Speedster Run

**General Meetings are held at Marie
Callender's in La Mesa, 6 pm.**

OCT 7-8 SPEEDSTER RUN

HOTEL INFO

SPEEDSTER RUN OCTOBER 7-8, 2023

**SAVE THE DATE! Book your room
ASAP!**

**Best Western, 1700 Seven Oakes
Rd, Escondido (off El Norte Pkwy)
760-740-1700 (direct # to hotel)**

With adjoining RV Park (Escondido
RV Resort-escondidorv.com)

Application coming soon!

The *Ruckstell Review* is the monthly publication of the Model T Ford Club of San Diego. Annual dues are \$20. The club holds a dinner meeting on the second Wednesday in odd-numbered months and tours during even-numbered months. The date of the next event can be obtained by calling any of the club officers or by checking the Upcoming Events listing in this issue.

The club is a Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America, PO Box 996, Richmond, IN 47375-0996. Membership information for the "National" can be obtained from any officer. The main publication of the MTFCA is the *Vintage Ford*, which alone is well worth the national dues of \$50 per year. Lifetime memberships are also available.

National Website: <https://www.mtfca.com>

SD Website: www.mtfcsd.org

The Model T Ford Club of San Diego—2023 Board

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MAY 2023

	Page
Upcoming events	1
Board Member Info	1
President's Message	2
Memories of Tony B	3
Memories of Tony B	4
Memories of Tony B	5
Memories of Tony B	6
Birthday List	7
Nametag Ordering	7
Story of Jerry's Model T	8
Minutes	9
Minutes, cont.	10
Chula Vista Nature Ctr Run	11
Upcoming Meetings	11
Invite to Tony's Celebration of Life	12
Beach Day at Balboa Island	13
Car Club Meetup flyer	13
Membership App	14



The President's Message will resume in June 2023. We have chosen to dedicate this issue to our good friend, Tony Bowker, who was the most dedicated and amazing ambassador possible for the Model T hobby.

Tony Bowker was a marvelous storyteller... and I was privileged to hear much of his life story when he was bringing me home after my emergency room visit in Visalia following the Sequoia Hangover Tour in April 2022. His love for Heather, Carolyn and all of his family was always clear. I heard many stories of their lives from the early days in the U.S. and adventures in a VW Bug. He kept my mind off the pain I was in.

My favorite memory of Tony is only peripherally related to Model T's. In late May of 2021, Tony rode up to the Golden Gate Tour in the "trouble truck" with his T on Mac's trailer so he didn't have to drive up alone. Every single time we stopped for fuel or a restroom or for lunch, he jumped out of whichever seat he was in to scoot around the truck and open my door for me—every single time! I've never been so spoiled. He truly was a gentleman.

Diane MacPherson, editor



Memories of Tony Bowker



I first met Tony when I joined the Model T Club of San Diego back in the mid-80's. He was the first to welcome me into the club. He, along with Lee Pierce, were my mentors and dear friends. Now both are gone. My memory of Tony will always be of times we shared working on T's, organizing tours, participating in the local club, etc. My favorite time was him inviting me to join him on the 1996 London to Brighton Run in his 1901 Curved Dash Olds! It was the ride of a lifetime!!!

Dave Stauffacher

Tony was a great friend to all who met him. Quite often on tours he would be all greasy because when someone broke down he was one of the first to help and many times crawled under their car to work. He planned many interesting tours including at least 3 "Desert Rat" tours where we would tour to a location and then drive to the next location and several locations for a week through the deserts of Southern California. He was planning one this April, but it was postponed until Fall because of his illness.

I am glad that Tony finally received the Rosenthal Trophy. He really deserved it.

Norm Kling

Alpine, CA



Tony and Karen Pepe Photo provided by Karen Pepe

Sad day to hear this. Tony was a true gentleman. His beautiful 1909 was sold to a friend of mine and it is in good hands. I was also so impressed with his famous speedster. All my best wishes to his family for this difficult moment. Big loss for our T community. RIP Tony.

Mario Brossard – Quebec City, CAN

A huge loss for the Model T community. Tony was a wonderful man who would always go out of his way to help others. He was generous and supportive with his Model T knowledge and skill. He was a true gentleman. Rest in peace my friend. My condolences to his family.

Mark Chaffin—Corona, CA

Tony was one of the first people I met when I got my touring car in the 1970's. We instantly became good friends, and have been for all these years. We've been on dozens of tours together, National, Regional and Local, for thousands of miles. Tony could never pass anybody who broke down on a tour or event. He would stop and help anybody who needed assistance. He owned and drove many different Model T's, and enjoyed them all. He was always active in both local and national club events. Any job that needed to be done, he would do it without fail.

His lovely wife, Heather, died a few years ago from cancer and he passed from the same disease. He was very positive and hopeful that he would survive, but it didn't happen. He is survived by his daughter Carolyn, her husband Scott, and two wonderful grandsons. The Model T world lost a great friend and wonderful person. I hope he's driving a Model T in heaven.

Craig French-Vista, CA



I was honored to meet Tony several years ago at Chickasha. What a wellspring of Model T knowledge and experience. I had greatly enjoyed his Forum posts before meeting him, but didn't know they were written with an English accent. I'll miss his humor, encouragement of others and sage advice.

George House – Northern Caldwell County, TX

Memories of Tony Bowker, continued

I got to know Tony a lot in the past few years since joining the hobby, and his help was invaluable. It's possible I may not have stuck with it if he wasn't close by and so willing to lend a hand when I felt way out of my league. I was always drawn to cars from this era, but was first physically introduced to T's sometime around 2015, when I was staying with a family friend who owned one. Mostly I used it to putter around a small town that had a max speed limit of around 25mph. I was hooked immediately.

It wasn't until 2019 that I was able to buy my own; I really didn't know what I was doing, so I bought one that looked pretty on the outside but needed a lot of help on the inside. Around the time I managed to get it running, I needed help diagnosing some issue that I felt was causing it to drive poorly. I don't remember exactly what I thought it was. Tony was quick to offer his help and was soon over, taking a look. After tweaking and checking a few small things, he suggested taking it for a drive so he could get a better sense of how it was running.

So, off we go with him driving. As soon as we left the speed-bump laden parking lot I lived in, he turned down a hill and immediately gave it full power; the ends of the spark and throttle levers were practically touching each other. We went screaming down the hill at max speed with me gripping the side of the front seat in wide-eyed terror. I had never seen anyone wring out an old car like that. Tony was completely unphased, looking as if he was watching were watching a PBS documentary about counting sand. "Seems about fine to me," he yelled over the wind, "must have been user error." Tony invited me to an upcoming tour and then left shortly after. When I got back inside, my wife Joy asked, "why do you look so pale?"

One of the rear wheels on that same car started making clacking sounds not too long later. Tony offered to see if he could shim them or tighten them up, so Joy and I drove up to his house in Ramona and met him in his barn workshop. He talked to us for about an hour and gave us a tour of his workshop. He mentioned that he was very busy because he was looking to move soon. "Give me a couple weeks and I'll see what I can do about the wheel," he said. Joy and I made the 40-minute drive home. I looked at my phone once the car was parked to see that I had a voicemail from Tony: "I have the whole wheel apart and it's already been shimmed before but I can probably make it work. You can pick it up tomorrow!" Shortest few weeks I've ever seen. When we returned to his workshop, he handed me the wheel and said, "It works find but it looks ugly and I'm not very happy with that, so no charge. You can buy me lunch sometime if you'd like instead." Lunch was had later.

A few months ago we bought the speedster he built with Carolyn many years ago; he was happy it went to somebody that he knew. We didn't quite have space for it yet, so he agreed to hold onto it until I sold my other T. When we came to pick it up, he was recovering from a recent hospital stay and having some difficulty but still helped us get it running after a long slumber. He encouraged us to drive it home (about twenty miles). About one mile down the road, it caught fire from a bad exhaust leak. Joy and I managed to put it out quickly with not too much damage. I called Tony to tell him and he said, "Hmmm, that's not the first time that's happened, actually. You can borrow my trailer if you'd like." I don't think anyone forgets their first car fire. I certainly won't.

Joy and I would talk to Tony at every club meeting we attended and on a few occasions went to visit him just for his company and to see what he was working on. We may not have known him for as long as some other club members, but our lives are definitely better for just knowing him at all. He was a priceless mentor, and a good friend. We will miss him.

Eric Brown-San Diego, CA

Memories of Tony Bowker, continued



A salute to Tony at the Arizona Speedster Run.

Photo by Carol Shumate

Tony Bowker was the life blood of the MTFCSO in so many facets. Very active as a Board Member, tour planner/leader, and Model T champion. After I joined the club in 2014, he agreed to check out any potential T that I was considering. He rejected several as too expensive and I began to realize what a cheapskate he was!

That served me well however and he test drove my '25 touring and approved its purchase. Over the next several years Tony helped meI mean I helped him.....work on my T including taking the engine/trans out 3 times! Sometimes I helped a little too much and he would bark at me! But when the repair was done he would say, "That was fun!" The 3rd engine project was a complete rebuild and every time I hear that sweet running engine, I will think of Tony!

Kirby Pray – San Diego, CA

Thank you to all the people who have contacted me from the club about my dad's passing. It was a horrible illness but the end was fairly quick and hopefully as painless as I could make it. One of the blessings of an illness, you have time to talk about plans. One of his biggest issues was having his treasures thrown away. I never would do that but he wanted to make sure I knew. I have been contacting people about pictures and other things I know he has and would like to go to new homes. Please feel free to contact me if there is something that you know of, that would mean a lot to you.

With that in mind, I will have pretty much a set of Vintage Fords to go to a new home. I am thinking of having an open house garage sale for his T parts. This would be on donations to the lymphoma society. I hate to mess with pricing so I am hoping everyone will give what they feel something is worth. We picked this charity because they helped pay the very large co pay that allowed my dad to survive the last 6 months. I am not sure of the date of the sale but I would assume it would be in June. I broke my hand in March and have had limited mobility. Again please feel free to reach out to me about a part or a tool. I haven't made any decision on the 1914 Touring or his trailer but feel free to let me know if you have an interest.

With that being said, we'll have a memorial, much like my mom's, on June 4. My dad would really like my cousin, Nick, whom many of you know, to be here. Since Nick flew out 4 times during my dad's illness, his time off of work is a little more limited. This seemed to be the best time for our family. I do know there is a tour, but we are heading into touring season. If you have some fun picture of my dad, please send them to me.

My dad touched a lot of people as evident of the comments on various websites. Also not everyone loved my dad, but he was always there to help someone in need. As someone said, "He was the last of the 'old breed'".

My contact is cdlemler@me.com and the house number is 619-469-3042.

Carolyn



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 8th Judy Burrell
- 9th Max Treece
- 12th Gail Wilson
- 18th Chuck West (the younger)
- 23rd Steven Chase
- 24th Gil Klecan
- 28th Cheryl Shumate

NAME TAG ORDERING

Have you lost your nice engraved name tag, never ordered one, or just want to update? Now is the time to get one. Fill out this form, send payment to our treasurer at MTFCSO, PO Box 23324, San Diego, CA 92193 and your name tag will be ordered.

TO ORDER YOUR NAMETAG:

Click the link below to get started:

<https://forms.gle/VUMczpw6LfJg65QW9>

From the editor...

Thank you for your newsletter contributions: Karen Pepe, Jerry Yeadon, Steven Chase, and all those who contributed to Tony's Memory pages.

If you have articles, photos or a tech article to share, please send them along!

Diane

Deadline for submissions for the June 2023 newsletter: May 24. Please send articles, tour info, pictures, "for sale" ads to: dianemac2015@gmail.com.

Business-Card Sized Ads are free to club members. Send a clean scan, artwork or photo of your card via email to Diane.

Arizona Speedster Run

San Diego Club Member Takes 1st!



Photo by Karen Pepe of a tour in Borrego Springs— Steven Chase driving his winning speedster. [No photo was available from the Arizona run.]

An Anthropomorphic Tale by The Model T Ford Who Traveled From Wenatchee to Mexico (Part 5)

By Jerry Yeadon

I am a 1921 Model T Ford touring car and as my story continues I have been loaded on to a U Haul trailer and towed out to Bryant's Auto Registration Service in Imperial Beach. My owner gave Juanita in the office a letter explaining why I did not have a title or license plates. The explanation was framed so the average DMV employee would not have a heart attack trying to understand my story. Three days later Juanita had my new California registration and a set of license plates. So here I was back on the road all legal and ready to begin life again as a car. I had not been driven on a road for several decades. My owner joined the San Diego Model T Ford Club and I began to travel on tours and drive in parades with other Model T's. During this time I had a unique look as I did not have fenders, no doors, the front seat section was intact with sofa cushions for the seat, and a pair of Toyota jump seats inside the rear body shell. My color was rust and some primer. As time went on my radiator got a new core with extra rows of tubes for better cooling and Rocky Mountain Brakes were installed. Following a tour out to Borrego Springs a man named Mac suggested I needed a Ruckstell rear end to keep up with the other cars on the hills. My owner traded Susi Murdock a set of wheels and tires for an unrestored Ruckstell. With parts from Chaffin's and advice from David my original Ford rear end was removed and the rebuilt Ruckstell was installed. A full set of top bows came from Kirt Simpson. Kevlar band linings were installed in my transmission. My tires wore out from so many trips to the store, neighborhood drive arounds, parades, and tours so my owner bought a new set from Lucas tire in LA.

One day my rear seat shell was rebuilt by Noe Rivera at his body shop then one by one all three doors were added. Later new fenders and hood were installed. My owner then spent six months filling, sanding, pounding and spraying primer on my body so I could be painted. When I was ready I went back to Noe's body shop and three days later I left all shiny black. Back at the garage in Chula Vista my owner installed new upholstery and a new top. Finally I was finished and looked like I did one hundred years ago back in Seattle. Then I heard talk that the house was going to be sold and I remembered the last time I heard that it did not turn out well for me. The next thing I knew I was driven to a Walmart parking lot and into the back of a twenty foot trailer and tied down....

(to be continued)

Ana and I have purchased a home in the historic area of San Miguel and will move in May 1st. The home is one block over from where Ana was born. So exciting.

Minutes of the Board Meeting April 12, 2023

Held at Maggie's Cafe, San Diego, CA

Start Time: 6:38 PM President John C. opened the meeting

Attendees: John C., Janna, Karen, Susie, Chuck, Rick & John P.

Vice President and Past President Janna:

2022 Speedster run update on missing badges, which were lost by USPS.
National tour based in San Diego, 2024 update below

Sunshine Chair John W.

Is having knee surgery in a week and a half, we wish him the best.

Treasurer Susie:

There are funds to keep the club running.

Secretary Karen:

Now that I am preparing our tax returns, I felt it necessary to ask for support documents each month in addition to the bank statements, so I can stay up to date when I go to file 2023.

No other news to report

Member at Large Kirby:

No changes to report from last months flyers on local car events

Tour Director Steven was not present, but has suggestions for future tours, and has come up with several tours throughout the year

May 28th – June 4th – Golden Gate Tour: Contact Steven Chase

June 17th – SD Pre run tour from Sycuan to Nature Museum, circuitous tour returning to Sycuan, or Otay/Chula Vista tour

Contact John Chapman

Minutes of the Board Meeting April 12, 2023

July 4th – Coronado 4th of July Parade, 10 spots open, Contact Chuck West

July 15th – Balboa Island, Newport Beach beach party: Contact Steven Chase

August Date TBD – Mission Trails 2.0 pre-run

September 22nd – Nickel Era Tour, St George, Utah

Contact John Manifor (562)697-2075

October 7th – 8th – **SD** Speedster Run beginning in Escondido, CA

Contact John C. or Janna

October 11th – 15th Ryan Ramble-Cayucas, Hearst Castle, Morro Rock, etc.

Contact Steven Chase

October 22nd – 25th California Rendezvous, Santa Maria, CA

October 26-28th – Halloween Tour, Idyllwild

Contact La Jolla Horseless Carriage (Pre-16)

November Date TBD – Tony Bowker Memorial Palm Springs & Borrego Tour

Editor Diane: Welcomes information to add to the newsletter!

Historian Chuck is looking for stories about our first Model T's

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20

2024 National Tour news:

June 16th – 21st, 2024 – National Model T tour will be a San Diego based tour, and we are hosting, Orange County Model T club is willing to assist.

May 18, 2023 - The next National tour meeting will be held at Chuck West's home at 6 p.m., please RSVP to Janna

There is a contest for a logo that is needed for this tour, that can be printed onto T-shirts, etc., The motto for the tour is "Trails less Traveled". Please contact Janna with questions or submissions. Free membership in the club next year is the award if your logo is chosen.

Chula Vista Nature Center Run

June 17

Come tour the southern bay area!

We will be leaving from and returning to Sycuan Casino

Lunch in Chula Vista

This is a pre-run for the 2024 National

More details in the next newsletter

MTFCSD

2023 Board Meetings

Held at Maggie's Café 5:30pm

Serra Mesa

June 14 August 9

October 11

2024 National Tour Planning Meeting

May 8, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Tour is: June 16-21, 2024 in San Diego

Planning is in progress, please join us at an upcoming planning meeting.

Next meeting: Thurs., May 8 at 6 p.m. at Chuck West's home, 2643 Greyling Dr, San Diego

R.S.V.P. to JannaLaughon@gmail.com

Celebration of Life
for
Anthony "Tony" Bowker

April 13, 1939-March 29, 2023



Nan Coutts Cottage
5045 Memorial Drive
La Mesa, CA 91942

June 4th ~ 4:00-6:00

Light sandwiches will be served.



**SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION
OF CAR CLUBS MEETUP**
EVERY 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
MARCH THROUGH OCTOBER



FREE AWARDS | MUSIC | FOOD | FUN 5-7P

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THE JOLLY JOKER
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The Jolly Joker shares a parking lot with Sonic Drive-In

March 7 **July 4 | 2pm-5pm**
April 4 **August 1**
May 2 **September 5**
June 6 **October 3**

Special time for this show ONLY!

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HCCSC 2023 “Balboa Island Family Beach Day”

Event: The Chase Family invites you and your family for a full day Open House on

Balboa Island in Newport Bay.

When: Saturday, July 15, 2023 from 10 a.m. through Potluck Dinner

Where: 117 Abalone Avenue, Newport Beach

Activities within 100 yards of the cottage: Cruiser Bike Riding, Sailing, Stand-Up Paddleboarding, Shopping on Main Street Balboa Island, Walking around the island, Sand Castles, Just Sitting Around on the Patios Telling Tales, and a Potluck Dinner at 4 p.m.

Because of parking challenges, all but a few of us will be coming in modern cars. However, if you plan to arrive in a horseless carriage, please let Steven Chase know so that he may save a VIP spot for you in front of the house.

Out of town guests may sleep over at the house before and/or following assuming beds are still available.

Please RSVP to Steven Chase (323) 497-0601 or newnorthsouth@gmail.com and let us know what you will be contributing to our Potluck so that we are able to fill in the menu where needed.

We all hope that you will join us

